

SECTION I

How to

UNDERSTAND

K I N G J A M E S

B I B L E

WORDS

Bacon (1597) said, “Some books are to be tasted,
others to be swallowed,
and some few to be
chewed...”

This is a
chewing gum book.
To understand it through and through,
you must chew it
‘til you do.

“OPEN THOU MINE EYES

THAT I MAY BEHOLD

WONDEROUS THINGS

OUT OF THY LAW.”

PSALM 119:18

CHAPTER 1

Every *Word*

“**E**very word of God is pure...”
Proverbs 30:5

“**B**ut he answered and said, It is written,
Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by **every word** that proceedeth
out of the mouth of God.”
Matthew 4:4

*I*magine a computer so advanced that it could scan its entire environment constantly, storing all input and matching it in its memory with all similar input. This is the human mind.

The new mailman quickly learns to associate ‘biting’ with the boxer by the brown house and to associate ‘wagging’ with the wiener dog in the window. Approached by a wandering wiener dog on his travels, the mailman’s memory (pre-conditioning) causes him to relax, not recoil. The new wiener dog makes him *think* of ‘wagging’ not ‘biting.’

Man mirrored the memory function of his mind when he made the ‘search’ function of the computer and Internet. Like the mind, these search their database, **letter-by-letter**, word-by-word, looking for things that match. Unfortunately, man’s creation, the computer, comes with clunky keyboards and crunching crashing kilobytes. God’s creation, the mind, cruises hands-free as it captures data through eyes and ears, capturing everything it hears. It stores stuff for years and when needed it appears!

God built man’s hardware brain for studying the Holy Bible. Its words sit surrounded by *other* words, which travel along with them like baggage. When the word travels to other settings, the baggage comes along, pops open, and unfolds the connotation God wants it to carry. (A **connotation** is an *idea suggested by* or associated with a word, e.g. the word ‘Alaska’ brings to mind ‘cold.’ A **denotation** indicates not what a word suggests, but what it *names*, e.g. Alaska is ‘the most northwestern state.’) If a Christian will “give attendance to reading” (1 Tim. 4:13), the connotations *and* denotations that God has associated

with a word throughout the Bible, will unfold to wrap the word at hand with meaning. As the Bible is read day after day, year after year, the wardrobe to wrap each word becomes richer and richer. “Line upon line” a fine thread intertwines, weaving word meanings like a deep and detailed tapestry.

“**W**hom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk and drawn from the breast. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; **line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.**” Isa. 28:9, 10

Many of the word-pictures are painted automatically and subconsciously as we read. However, we are told to “study” (2 Tim 3:16) and “**search** the scriptures” (John 5:39) also.

Use *all* three of the following methods to study any word or verse. Three kinds of searches can be used:

Search 1:  **Key Words**

Expand understanding of individual words by comparing their use in various places in the Bible.

Search 2:  **Word Definitions**

Identify words and verses which are parallel in meaning by finding their identical surrounding words.

Search 3:  **Parallel Concepts**

Identify words and verses which are parallel (or direct opposites) in meaning by finding matching parts of speech and word order.

Search 1: Key Words

Expanding Understanding About Words

This is the major and most widely used method of studying the Bible.

1. Read the Bible.
2. Search key words

For example, beginning in Genesis 1:1, select **key words**, such as: ‘beginning,’ ‘created,’ ‘heaven,’ and ‘earth.’

“In the **beginning** God **created** the **heaven** and the **earth**.”

Find *other verses* in the Bible which use each of the selected key words. To find these places use a concordance, a computer Bible program search, or personal examination. These other contexts will give God’s meaning of the word and expand the understanding of the verse. With this method on the first day of Bible study in Gen. 1:1, the reader learns that it was “God, who **created** all things by Jesus Christ” (Eph. 3:9). Several practice examples using this method (Search 1) are given at the end of this chapter.

Searching the Bible may take more time than just looking up words in a dictionary or lexicon to see what “man’s wisdom teacheth” (1 Cor. 2:13), but only the Bible itself will reveal the definitions and connotations God intends words to carry. ‘Study,’ according to the Bible’s own definition, is **work** done by one’s **self**, not by a person totally unknown to the student (1 Tim. 5:22).

“Study to shew thy**self** approved unto God, a **workman** that needeth not to be ashamed...”
2 Tim. 2:15.

Search 2: Defining Words with Pegs

& The Bible's Built-In Dictionary

The King James Bible's built-in dictionary defines all of its vocabulary for you. *The Language of the King James Bible*, pp. 6-13, explains how to find the Bible's own definitions using the following clues:

1. The definition may be the word **next** to the word.
2. The definition may be **in the same verse**.
3. The definition may be **in the preceding or the following verse**.
4. The definition may be **somewhere in the chapter**.

(The Bible's built-in dictionary and its use by the translators, is discussed in upcoming chapters entitled, "How the Mind Works," "The Little Book," "The Ends of the **World**," "Wycliffe's Views," "Warning from Translators and Martyrs," "Understanding the Bible: Methods of Translators and Martyrs" as well as Gail Riplinger, *The Language of the King James Bible*, Ararat, VA: AV Publications, 1998).

Line upon Line with Pegs

This chapter completes the information shown in *The Language of the King James Bible* by demonstrating **exactly how** to find the Bible's built-in dictionary.

- God teaches by repetition.
- He says the same thing in a number of ways.
- He uses **repeated words (Pegs)** to affirm the relationship between two thoughts.

To locate the built-in definition, follow these steps.

1. Line _____

Underline the words **which surround** the word in question.

2. Look

Look for **those same words repeated** elsewhere:

- ◆ in the verse (Usually the definition will be in a nearby verse.)
- ◆ in the following or preceding verse
- ◆ in the chapter
- ◆ in the book of the Bible
- ◆ in the entire Bible

Underline these matching words. The words which are repeated are the **pegs** which indicate that a **parallelism** occurs. To find the pegs it will be necessary to look for the **double** occurrence of words in the context. This entails going through the context word by word, looking for **recurrences** of *any* words. There may be numerous reoccurrences of many words. Once these are all marked, the parallel thoughts and verses will pop out, because they contain identical words.


3. Find the meaning

The parallel sentences containing the identical peg words also contain words which *do not match*; these words are often synonyms, that is, words which have the same meaning and are definitions of the word in question.


“Search, and look...” John 7:52

Example 1



Define: **cumbrance**

Step 1:  **Read** the *immediate* context.


“How can I myself alone bear your **cumbrance**, and your burden, and your strife?” Deut. 1:12

Step 2:  **Underline** the surrounding words. (Remember mark all nearby words, such as ‘bear,’ ‘alone,’ ‘and’ etc..)

“How can I myself alone bear your **cumbrance**, and...”

Step 3:  **Look** in the immediate context for the repetition of those surrounding words *and*  underline them. Here, the key repeated word is ‘your.’

“How can I myself alone bear your **cumbrance**, and your burden, and your strife?” Deut. 1:12

Step 4:  **Find** the word or words which occur in a parallel position to the word in question.


“How can I myself alone bear your **cumbrance**, and your **burden**, and your strife?” Deut. 1:12

Definition: A **cumbrance** is a ‘**burden**.’

Verse	Pegs	Definition
Deut.1:12	your	cumbrance
Deut.1:12	your	burden


Example 2

Define: *eschew*

Step 1:  **Read** the *immediate* context.

10 “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:




11 Let him *eschew* evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.” 1 Peter 3:10, 11


Step 2:  **Underline** the surrounding words.

10 “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

11 Let him *eschew* evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.”


The surrounding words are:

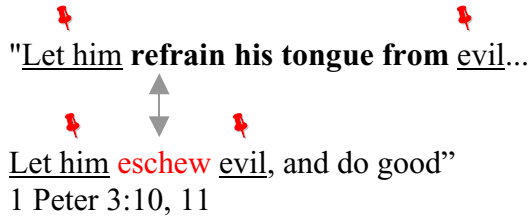
 Let  him
 evil

Step 3:  **Look** for the repeated words, ‘Let,’ ‘him,’ and ‘evil,’ in several nearby verses.

10 “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

11 Let him *eschew* evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.”

Step 4:  **Look** at the word or words which hang between the pegs! They are the Bible’s own built-in definition.



Definition: To ‘**eschew**’ is to ‘**refrain**’ and more specifically, “refrain his tongue from.”

Verse	Pegs	Definition
1 Pet. 3:10	Let him...evil	eschew
1 Pet. 3:11	Let him...evil	refrain...from

In fact, the word ‘from’ is an excellent definition of ‘eschew,’ although it is not the same part of speech.

The built-in dictionary gives an additional definition within the word itself. The word ‘es-**chew**’ contains its own definition.

- ‘**es**’ is the Latin root for ‘out’ or ‘from,’ as in **es**-cape.
- ‘**chew**’ means ‘chew’ (Remember, this is a **bubble gum** book.)

The word ‘**eschew**’ means ‘Do not chew on evil.’ (**Chew** on that one for a while.) Linguists have discovered that ‘c’ means ‘capture,’ ‘h’ means ‘hold,’ and ‘w’ pictures an up and down movement: a perfect description of chew.


(The KJV, the best missionary Bible, matches the English ‘shun,’ the German *scheuen*, the Spanish *esquivar*, the Italian *schivare*, the French *esquiver*; the NIV and NASB ‘turn’ will not be recognizable.)

Example 3


Define: **bought**

Step 1:  Read the *immediate* context.


“...I have **bought** all that was Elimelech’s...have I purchased to be my wife...” Ruth 4:9, **10**

Step 2:  **Underline** the surrounding words.

“...I have **bought** all that was Elimelech’s...”
Ruth 4:9

 **Underline** the repetition of those surrounding words in the immediate context.

“...I have **bought** all that was Elimelech’s...have I purchased to be my wife...” Ruth 4:9, **10**

Step 3:  **Locate** the parallelism. Find the word or words which occur in a parallel position to the word in question.


“...I have **bought** all that was Elimelech’s...have I **purchased** to be my wife...” Ruth 4:9, **10**

Definition: ‘**bought**’ also means ‘**purchased**.’


Verse	Pegs	Definition
Ruth 4: 9	I have	bought
Ruth 4:10	have I	purchased

Example 4


Define: seer

Step 1:  **Read** the *immediate* context. Underline the surrounding words (1 Samuel 9:9).

“(Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.)”

Step 2:  **Identify** the surrounding repeated pegs. Underline the repetition of those surrounding words in the immediate context.

“(Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.)”

Step 3:  **Locate** the parallelism. Find the word or words which occur in a parallel position to the word in question.

“(Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.)”

Definition: A ‘Seer’ was a ‘Prophet.’


Verse	Pegs	Definition
1 Sam. 9:9	beforetime called a	Seer
1 Sam. 9:9	Beforetime...called a	Prophet

Example 5 Parallel Syllables, Sounds, & Definition

Define: **asunder**

Step 1:  Read the *immediate* context.

“And shall cut him **asunder**, and appoint him his portion...” Matt. 24:51

Step 2:  Underline the surrounding & matching words.

“And shall cut him **asunder**, and appoint him his portion...” Matt. 24:51

Step 3:  Find the parallelism.

“And shall cut him **asunder**,
and appoint him his **portion**...” Matt. 24:51


Definition: ‘**asunder**’ means ‘**portion.**’ (Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*, 1828, says, ‘asunder’ means “in a **divided** state” and ‘portion’ means “To **divide.**”) Unlike a standard dictionary, the Bible does not always define words with matching parts of speech. Here the adverb ‘asunder’ assists the reader in understanding the noun ‘portion.’

The matching saying often has an identical number of syllables with perfectly parallel sounds to reinforce the parallelism. The parallel definition occurs at exactly the same syllable. Upcoming chapters give more examples.


Syllable 1	Syllable 2	Syllable 3	Syllable 4	Syllable 5	Syllable 6	Syllable 7
<u>And</u>	shall	cut	<u>him</u>	a	sun	der
<u>and</u>	ap	point	<u>him</u>	his	por	tion

Example 6 Echoed Letter Sounds

Define: **stedfast**

Step 1:  Read the *immediate* context.

“if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end...if we hold the beginning of our confidence **stedfast** unto the end;” Heb. 3:6, 14

Step 2:  **Underline** the matching words *and letters*.

“if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end... v. 6
if we hold the beginning of our confidence **stedfast** unto the end...” v. 14

Step 3:  Find the parallelism.

“if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end

...if we hold the beginning of our confidence **stedfast** unto the end...”

Definition: ‘**stedfast**’ (even though it is an adverb) is clarified by the words ‘**hold fast**,’ ‘**firm**,’ and ‘**hold**.’


Verse	Pegs	Definition
Heb. 3:6	if we...the confidence...of the...unto the end	hold fast ho...firm
Heb. 3:14	if we...of...confidence...unto the end	hold... steadfast

Echoed letter sounds are used to bring out parallels. The repeated letters in ‘**hold fast**’ and ‘**hope firm**’ reinforce the parallel meanings of ‘fast’ and ‘firm.’ (The repeated word ‘of’ indicates that ‘hope’ means ‘confidence.’)


Example 7

The KJV not only defines difficult words, it automatically expands the vocabulary of children as they read.


Define: **unbelief**

Step 1:  **Read** the *immediate* context.

“And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of **unbelief**...” Heb. 3:18, 19

Step 2:  **Underline** matching words *and letters*.

“And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief...” Heb. 3:18, 19

Step 3:  **Find** the parallelism.


“And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that **believed not**? So we see that they could not enter in because of **unbelief**...” Heb. 3:18, 19

Definition: ‘**Unbelief**’ means to ‘**believe not**.’

Verse	Pegs	Definition
Heb. 3:18	ould not enter in	believed not
Heb. 3:19	ould not enter in	unbelief

Example 8

Define: *straightway, forthwith, and anon.*

Step 1:  **Read** the *immediate* context.

“And...The time is fulfilled...
And **straightway**...
And immediately...
And **forthwith**...
and **anon**...
and immediately” Mark 1

Step 2:  **Underline** the matching words.

“And...The time is fulfilled...
And straightway...And immediately...
And forthwith...and anon...and immediately.”


Step 3:  **Find** the parallelism.

Verse	Peg	Definition
Mark 1:15	And...	The time is fulfilled
Mark 1:18, 20	And	straightway
Mark 1:28	And	immediately
Mark 1:29	And	forthwith
Mark 1:30	and	anon
Mark 1:31	and	immediately


Definition: Webster’s 1828 Dictionary defines ‘**straightway**,’ ‘**forthwith**,’ and ‘**anon**’ as “**immediately**,” the same definition given in parallelism by the KJV’s built-in dictionary.

Example 9

Define: **provocation**

Step 1:  **Read** the *immediate* context.

“...as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation...When your fathers tempted me, proved me...” **Psa. 95:8, 9**

Step 2:  **Underline** the matching words *and letters*.

“...as in the provocation,
and as in the day of temptation
...When your fathers tempted me,
proved me”

Step 3:  **Find** the definition.

“...as in the **provocation**, and as in the day of **temptation**...When your fathers **tempted me**, **proved me**...”


Definition: ‘**Provocation**’ and ‘**proved**’ mean ‘**temptation**’ and ‘**tempted**.’ The parallel verse in Hebrews has the same verse numbers as Psalms!

Verse	Pegs	Definition
Heb. 3:8	in the...ation	provocation
Heb. 3:8	in the...ation	temptation

Verse	Peg	Definition
Heb. 3:9	ed me	tempted
Heb. 3:9	ed me	proved

Example 10

Define: threescore and ten

Step 1:  **Read** the *immediate* context. Look for the repetition of the surrounding words in nearby verses. If these provide no repeated pegs, extend the search to the paragraph mark (¶) or the entire chapter. If this provides no repeated pegs, broaden the search to include several nearby chapters. Look for *all repeated* words.

Step 2:  **Underline** the matching words.

“...which are threescore and ten persons...which he did unto his father, in slaying his seventy brethren:” Judges 9:2, 56

Step 3:  **Locate** the parallelism.

The word ‘which’ is the peg. Find the word or words which sit in a parallel position (physically or grammatically) to the word in question.

“...which are **threescore and ten** persons ...which he did unto his father, in slaying his **seventy** brethren.” Judges 9:2, 56


The parallel concepts ‘persons’ and ‘brethren’ (not identical words) serve as pegs.


Definition: ‘**threescore and ten**’ means ‘**seventy**.’

Verse	Pegs	Definition
Judges 9:2	which...persons	threescore and ten
Judges 9:56	which...brethren	seventy

Example 1 1

Define: **sith**


Step 1:  **Read** the *immediate* context. If this provides no repeated pegs, broaden the search to include the other *nearby verses*. Next, search beginning from the *paragraph* mark (¶). Finally, if necessary, go to the beginning of the *chapter* and search the entire chapter for repeated pegs.

Step 2:  **Identify** the repeated pegs. This will involve looking for *every* word, (thou, hast, not, hated, blood, etc. etc. etc.). Underline all repeated words. After underlining all repeated words, the verse which contains *the* parallelism and definition will be apparent.

5 “Because thou hast had a perpetual hated,
and hast shed the blood of the children of
Israel by the force of the sword in the time of
their calamity...

6 ...**sith** thou hast not hated blood, even blood
shall pursue thee...

10 Because thou hast said...” Ezek. 35:5, 6, 10

Step 3:  **Locate** the parallelism. Find the word or words which sit in a parallel position to the word in question.

5 “**Because** thou hast had a perpetual hated,
and hast shed the blood of the children of

Israel by the force of the sword in the time of their calamity...

6 ...**sith** thou hast not hated blood, even blood shall pursue thee...


10 **Because** thou hast said..." Ezek. 35:5, 6, 10


Definition: ‘**sith**’ means ‘**because**’ (‘**sith**’ sounds like ‘**since**,’ another synonym of ‘**because**.’

Verse	Pegs	Definition
Ezek. 35: 5	thou hast... hatred...blood	Because
Ezek. 35: 6	thou hast... hated blood	sith
Ezek. 35:10	thou hast...	Because



DICTIONARIES: Good, Better, Best and *Perfect*

 **M**odern dictionaries dilute and whitewash Bible words. Compare their often New Age definitions of words, like salvation, truth, spirit and Christ, with those in a *good* old dictionary, like *The American Dictionary of the English Language* by Noah Webster, 1828; it often uses the scriptures to define a word (It is reasonably priced at www.avpublications.com). For exhaustive study of words, a *better* choice might be the 20 volume **unabridged** *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED is expensive and available on CD-Rom from www.oed.org or in microprint from www.abe.com). It falls short in that it cannot indicate *which* of its definitions *fit* the reader's context.

 **T**he *best* dictionary for studying words used in the King James Bible is the online *Early Modern English Dictionaries Database* (EMEDD), compiled by linguists from the University of Toronto to “correct the OED” and more accurately define words as they were used between 1530 and 1657. Definitions from 16 dictionaries, many available to the KJV translators, appear instantly online when a KJV word is searched. The dictionaries include Robert Cawdrey (1604), Edmond Coote (1596), John Bullokar (1616), Henry Cockeram (1623), Thomas Blount (1656), Richard Mulcaster (1582), John Palsgrave (1530 English and French), William Thomas (1550 English and Italian), John Florio (1598 English and Italian), John Minsheu (1599 English and Spanish), Randal Cotgrave (1611 English and French) and others. The EMEDD is currently available at:

www.chass.utoronto.ca:8080/english/emed/emedd.html

Good, better, and best are not *perfect*. God said understanding is “line upon line” (Isa. 28: 9, 10) not *online*. God placed everything that pertains to life and godliness right in the Bible.

“According as his divine power hath given unto us **all** things that pertain unto life and godliness...” 2 Peter 1:3

Many words have *numerous* ‘dictionary’ definitions. This makes it difficult to determine which one fits the reader’s context. The Bible’s *perfect* built-in dictionary does not have this problem. The parallel definition is perfectly suited to the context. (Also see chapter entitled “Sound = Sense” to discover the King James Bible’s *automatic* sound-file dictionary). The KJV gives the *perfect* definition of all of its own words.

Example 12


A case study:


Define: **purloining**



“New information about English” now provided by EMEDD proves the KJV’s built-in definition of ‘**purloining**’ is correct and Webster’s, OED, NIV, TNIV, NKJV, NASB, HCSB, ESV and the definition in the KJVER (so-called Easy-Reading) and other marginal word-defining bibles are wrong. In the context of Titus 2:10 they mistakenly use ‘stealing’ and ‘pilfering’ as an acceptable equivalent for the KJV’s ‘purloining.’ Both the EMEDD and the KJV’s built-in dictionary define ‘purloining’ as ‘keeping’ “at home” and not “stealing **away**,” that is, ‘running away.’ Modern version errors which reflect the needed “revisions to the OED” show the importance of the KJV’s built-in **1611** dictionary. (See Ian Lancashire, *The Early Modern English Dictionaries Database*, pp. 1-9 at the URL previously noted.)

Finding this 1611 definition is simple if you own a KJV.

Step 1:  **Read** the context (Titus chapter 2).

Step 2:  **Look** for words which surround ‘**purloining**’ (Titus 2:10) and are repeated elsewhere in the chapter. Start with the first word in the chapter. Although numerous words will be repeated, one particular verse will **pop out** because it contains numerous words which match verse 10. In this case a parallel occurs between the directions to the young women (verse 5) and the servants (verse 10). The parallel pegs that show the general parallelism are “to” and “to be,” each repeated several times indicating that verses 4 and 5 are parallel to verses 9 and 10 in some ways. The specific parallelisms are the words “obedient unto their own,” “that,” “of God,” and “in all things.”



Step 3:  **Find** the definition.

Verse	Pegs	Definition
Titus 2:5	obedient unto their own... that...of God...In all things	keepers at home
Titus 2:9,10	obedient unto their own... that...of God...in all things	Not purloining


Definition: The words ‘**not purloining**’ mean ‘not loosing,’ but ‘keeping.’ Just as the wife is to keep “at home,” so the servant is to remain “at” work, **not running away**, not carrying his master’s property away. He is to ‘keep at’ the job, not prolonging his tasks. (The word ‘purloin’ is actually a tower of Babel scramble of ‘prolong.’) One does not need a Greek concordance to discover that the Greek word, translated ‘purloining’ in Titus, is translated ‘keep’ in Acts 5:2, 3; the KJV’s built-in definition *is* ‘keeping.’

Secular dictionaries and new versions give the false impression that ‘purloining’ pertains *only* to ‘theft.’ The latest research in EMEDD says that ‘purloining’ can mean, “stealing away.” ‘Study’ of a word’s *context* in the KJV makes owning the OED, a pricey antique dictionary collection, or even searching online unnecessary.



Example 13


Some searches involve **many parallel**  **pegs**  found only by looking for them in *numerous* verses and even *nearby* chapters.

Define: **entering in**

Step 1:  In the chapter, look for the **repetition** of the words which **surround the words** in question. Start with ‘For,’ ‘they,’ ‘themselves,’ ‘shew’ and all other nearby words.

“For they themselves shew of us what manner of **entering in** we had unto you...”
1 Thes. 1:9

Step 2:  **Mark** **matching** words using **matching colored** pencils  or leader lines, as they occur *elsewhere* in the chapter or in nearby chapters.

Step 3:  **Locate** the parallelism.
It will become apparent that one or two other verses in the chapter repeat the same pegs. The synonym or definition will be found between or around the pegs in perfect parallel position.

“1:5 For^{color 1} our gospel came not unto you^{color 2} in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know^{color 3} what manner of^{color 4} men we^{color 5} were among you^{color 2} for your sake...

1:9 For^{color 1} they themselves^{color 6} shew of us what manner of^{color 4} **entering in**^{color 4} we^{color 5} had unto you^{color 2} ...

1 For^{color 1} yourselves^{color 6}, brethren, know^{color 3} our **entrance in**^{color 2} unto you^{color 2} ...”

Verse	Pegs ↴ ↴ ↴	Definition
1 Thes. 1:5	For ¹ ...	what manner of men we were among you
	unto you ² ...you ²	
	know ³ ...	
	what manner of ⁴	
	...we ⁵ ...	
1 Thes. 1:9	you ²	entering in
	For ¹ ...	
	selves ⁶	
	what manner of ⁴	
	...we ⁵ ...	
1 Thes. 2:1	unto you ²	entrance in
	For ¹ ...	
	selves ⁶ ...	
	know ³ ...	
	unto you ²	

Since this example is lengthy, the material is presented in another format to show the parallel pegs more clearly.

1 Thes. 1:5 Pegs	1 Thes. 1:9 Pegs	1 Thes. 2:1 Pegs
For...	For...	For...
	selves	selves...
unto you...you	unto you	unto you
know...	shew*	know...
what manner of	what manner of	
...we...	...we...	

* Rhyme cinches words together and brings thoughts into conjunction with one another. ‘Shew’ rhymes with ‘know’ and is in a parallel position. “[R]hyme does help to cement lines together...” (Whitling, *The Grammar of Poetry*, p. 7).

Definition: ‘entering in’ can be defined as ‘what manner of men we were’ or ‘entrance in.’

 **Defining Words with Pegs & The Bible’s Built-In Dictionary**

This method is foolproof. “Study” and “work” in the “word” always works. The time it takes to find a definition in this manner is well worth the effort. It can be used to solve countless theological questions, debates and confusion. The tiny time it takes to analyze a word can be taken from the time we all waste worrying, watching the weather on TV instead of through the window, wandering the web, waving our hair, or whispering about the brethren. The methods described here will always yield an answer. Word “genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying” are all that can be found with a *quick* sneak peak at the Greek in lexicons (2 Tim. 3:15, 1 Tim. 1:4).

Start with the first word and look for its **reappearance elsewhere in the chapter** (or if you are ambitious, look in several chapters, the whole book, or the whole Bible). Mark each one. Repeat this procedure with *every* word. For instance, to study 1 John, begin with the first word, ‘That,’ and locate all other usages of the word ‘that.’ Repeat the process with the words, ‘which,’ ‘was,’ ‘from,’ ‘the,’ and ‘beginning.’ Continue reading and searching in this way.

“That which was from the beginning...” 1 John 1

Once you have examined a number of chapters and books with this method, you will find that it no longer becomes quite so necessary to mark up your Bible, examining every single word. You will have learned to scan for those special words which need elaboration.

Practice 1

1 John 1:1-7

The following are just a *few* of the pegs and **parallelisms** which define and expand the reader’s understanding of words and ideas in the first 17 verses of 1 John. The charts to follow include more.

- 1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have **seen with our eyes**, which we have **looked upon**, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;
- 2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and **shew** unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was **manifested** unto us;)
- 3 That which we have seen and heard **declare** we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.
- 4 And these things **write** we unto you, that your joy may be full.

*P*arallelisms serve a number of functions:

 **First:** Children expand their vocabulary.

Verse	Pegs	Definition
1 John 1:1	we have	seen with our eyes
1 John 1:1	we have	looked upon

 **Secondly:** Theological parallels are established.

For example, the Word, Jesus Christ is compared to the written word.

Verse	Pegs	Definition
1 John 1:1	from the beginning	the Word
1 John 2:7	from the beginning	the word

By paralleling the word ‘him’ with ‘the Father, and with his Son,’ the Godhead is identified with the masculine gender, not the neuter gender of the New Age movement and Hinduism.

Verse	Pegs	Definition
1 John 1:3	fellowship is with	the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ
1 John 1:6	fellowship with	him

How do we “walk in the light”? — as he, Jesus Christ, walked or *Dancing in the Light* with New Age author Shirley MacLain. We should walk as “he” walked.

Verse	Pegs	Definition
1 John 1:7	walk	in the light
1 John 2:6	walk	even as he walked

8 **Thirdly:** Special words, like ‘**propitiation**’ are defined.

Verse	Pegs	Definition
1 John 1:7	and...f...sin	the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin
1 John 2:2	And...f...sins	he is the propitiation for our sins

Once pegs are used to identify parallel verses or sentences, numerous conceptual parallels can be found.

Verse	Peg	Who?	Did what?	
1 John 1:7	and	the blood of Jesus Christ his Son	cleanseth	us from all sin
1 John 2:2	And	he	is the propitiation	for our sins

The so-called archaic word ‘shew’ is defined with three different words.

Verse	Pegs	Definition
1 John 1:2	unto you	shew
1 John 1:2	unto	manifested
1 John 1:3	we unto you	declare
1 John 1:4	we unto you	write
1 John 1:5	unto you	declare

God sees us as little children. We should climb down from our high horses and realize they are just highchairs and hobbyhorses. “Except ye become as little children...”

Verse	Pegs	Definition
1 John 2:1	...write I unto you	My little children
1 John 2:7	I write...unto you	Brethren

The word is spoken of as ‘truth’ (“thy word is truth” John 17:17). It is impossible to have truth without the word. Greek lexicons are not the truth; they are not ‘the word.’

Verse	Pegs	Definition
1 John 1:8	is not in us	truth
1 John 1:10	is not in us	word
1 John 2:4	is not in him	truth

Verse	Pegs	Definition
1 John 2:1	...write I unto you	these things
1 John 2:7	I write...unto you	no new commandment

Verse	Pegs	Definition
1 John 2:3	keep his	commandments
1 John 2:5	keepeth his	word

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the **truth** is not in us...

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his **word** is not in us.

1 My little children, **these things** write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous...”

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his **commandments**.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the **truth** is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his **word**, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him...

7 Brethren, I write **no new commandment** unto you, but an old commandment...The old commandment is the word...”

The Bible’s built-in dictionary precedes and parallels verse 7. It summarizes: “The...**commandment** is the **word**.”

Practice 2








Luke 1:1-4

Identify (with matching colored pencils or connecting lines) the identical peg words. Look also for matching sounds.

Lines link matching words and sounds.

1 Forasmuch **as** many have taken in hand **to** set forth **in order** a declaration **of those things which** are most **surely** believed among us,
2 Even **as** they delivered them unto us, which **from the** beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;
3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things **from the** very first, **to** write unto thee **in order**, most excellent Theophilus,
4 That thou mightest know the **certainty of those things, wherein** thou hast been instructed.

Colored pencils mark matching words and sounds.

color 1  color 2  color 3  color 4  color 5  color 6  color 7 

“1 Forasmuch ¹as many have taken in hand ²to set forth ³in order a declaration ⁴of those things wh⁵ich are most ⁶surely ⁷believed among us,
2 Even ¹as they delivered them unto us, which ⁷from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;
3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things ⁷from the very first, ²to write unto thee ³in order, most excellent Theophilus,
4 That thou mightest know the ⁵certainty ⁴of those things, ⁶wh⁷erein thou hast been ⁶instructed.

From this simple matching, the definitions of 5 different words appear (actually there are probably more). So-called difficult words like ‘forasmuch’ and ‘wherein’ are defined. Who would have imagined that a simple 4-verse section contained so many parallelisms? The Bible is a book of parallelisms. Understanding is “line upon line.” Children’s vocabularies grow. What a book! The exercise produces the following definitions.

Example 1

Define: **beginning**

Luke 1:2... from the **beginning**...

Luke 1:3... from the **very first**

Pegs	Definition
from the	beginning
from the	very first

Example 2

Define: **to write**

Luke 1:1... to **set forth** in order

Luke 1:3... to **write** unto thee in order

Pegs	Definition
to...in order	set forth
to...in order	write

Actually, ‘taken in hand to set forth’ is a perfect description of ‘to write.’

Pegs	Definition
to...in order	taken in hand to set forth
to...in order	to write

Example 3

Define: **Forasmuch**

Luke 1:1 **Forasmuch** ¹as

Luke 1:2 **Even** ¹as

Peg	Definition
as	Forasmuch
as	Even

Example 4

Define: **certainty**

Luke 1:1... ⁴of those things which are most ⁵**surely** believed⁶

Luke 1:4... ⁵**certainty** ⁴of those things wherein thou hast been instructed⁶

Pegs	Definition
of those things wh...ed	surely
of those things wh...ed	certainty

The like ‘er’ and ‘y’ sounds of ‘surely’ and ‘certainty’ assists the reader in pairing and understanding these like-sounding words (even though ‘surely’ is an adverb and ‘certainty’ is a noun).

Example 5

Define: **wherein**

Luke 1:4...**things**⁴ **wherein**


Luke 1:1...**things**⁴ **which**

Peg	Definition
things	wherein
things	which

Webster's 1828 says that 'wherein' means "in which."

Search 3 FINDING PARALLEL CONCEPTS

With Parallel Pegs, Word Order and Parts of Speech

 Our generation is suffering from a kind of cultural amnesia about the structure of the Bible. In the mid-eighteenth century Robert Lowth wrote about the parallel meaning of nearby Bible verses. Other chapters prove all translators used these. Robert Alter, Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature at the University of California, even through unbelieving eyes, can see a glimmer of the glory. Amidst page after page of examples, he writes,

Semantic [meaning] parallelism, though by no means invariably present, is a prevalent feature of biblical verse. That is, if the poet says, 'hearken' in the first verset, he is apt to say something like 'listen' or 'heed' in the second verset. This **parallelism of meaning**, which is often joined with a **balancing of the number of rhythmic stresses** between the versets and sometimes by **parallel syntactic [word order]** patterns as well, seems to have played a role roughly analogous [similar] to

that of iambic pentameter in Shakespeare's dramatic verse: it is an underlying formal model that the poet feels free to modify or occasionally to abandon altogether...By my count, however, such instances of nearly **synonymous restatement** occur in less than a quarter of the lines of verse in the biblical corpus (Robert Alter, *The World of Biblical Literature*, NY: BasicBooks, 1991-1993, p. 173).

The unbelievers at Harvard even have fancy names to describe these parallelisms (See Robert Alter, *The Literary Guide to the Bible*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1987, pp. 668-672).

dyadic line: A line of Hebrew verse containing two **parallel** "members" or versets.

verset, hemistych, or bicolon: One of the two or three subunits that make up a line of Hebrew poetry.

Even William White, the new editor of his **now corrupted** *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary*, shows his understanding of the parallel nature of Bible verses and gives an example similar to the following,

I O magnify/ the LORD/ with me,
II And let us exalt/ his name/ together

"Notice that virtually every **part of speech** in Line I can be substituted for its equal in Line II...They indicate important relationships in **meaning**. Many pairs are used over and over again, almost as **synonyms**...[This] becomes a very valuable **tool** for our **understanding of their meanings**" (W.E. Vine, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996, pp. xvi, xvii).

This system of communication is used throughout the New Testament also, but few seem to take the time to pull out the parallels. (Sadly, ‘instant’ Christians pop open *Strong’s Concordance* or *Vine’s Expository Dictionary* and pull out a definition, much like a child eagerly reaching blindly into his bag of Halloween treats. The definition found could be from a corrupt text, secular lexical database, or simply out of context. In *The Divine Inspiration of the Bible*, Vine admits he is a follower of corrupters Westcott and Hort (Glasgow: Pickering, pp. 27, 28))

Just as words serve as pegs to point out parallel verses, so **identical concepts**, which often are identical parts of speech, are paralleled to supply synonyms and definitions.

Example 1

Looking at the word ‘propitiation’ in both 1 John and then in Romans 3 provides numerous definitions.

Define: propitiation

1 John	Who	What	For whom	Why
1:7	Jesus Christ	cleanseth	us	sins
2:1, 2	Jesus Christ he	propitiation	for our	sins
2:1	Jesus Christ			
2:12	his name’s sake	forgiven	your	sins
3:5	he	take away	our	sins
3:16	he	laid down his life	for us	
4:10	his Son	propitiation	for our	sins
4:14	the Son	Saviour	of the world	

Definition: The word ‘**propitiation**’ is enhanced and clarified by the parallel words: **cleanseth, forgiven, take away, Saviour, and laid down his life.**

Expand: **propitiation**

Romans	What you get	By & through what means	In & of whom
3:22	righteousness of God	by faith	of Jesus Christ
3:24	justified freely	by his grace through the redemption that is	in Christ Jesus
3:25	propitiation	through faith	in his blood
3:25	remission of sins	through the forbearance	of God
3:28	justified	by faith	
3:30	justify	by faith through faith	
3:31		through faith	

CONCEPT Pegs for Sticky Spots

Some words may not be difficult to understand, but they are the object of ‘theological’ debate or expository teaching and consequently need to be defined with the Bible’s, not man’s, definitions. Finding the repeated pegs reveals the parallelisms.

Example 1

Define: **predestinated** (Eph. 1)

v. 3	who	hath	blessed	us	in Christ
v. 4	ing...he	hath	chosen	us	in him
v. 5	accord- ing		predestinated ... unto the adoption of children	us	by Jesus Christ
v. 6	he	hath	made... accepted	us	in the beloved
v. 7	we	have	redemption		In whom... through his blood
v. 8	he	hath	abounded toward	us	wherein
v. 9	ing...		made known	us	
v. 9 v. 10	he he	hath	purposed gather together		in himself in one... in Christ... in him
v. 11	we	have	obtained		In whom...*
v. 11	ing...		predestinated		
v. 11	accord ing		purpose		

* also see v. 12: “**in Christ**,” v. 13: “**In whom**,” v. 20: “**in Christ**,” and “**in the heavenly places**.”

Definition: predestinated means ‘purposed.’

“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose...” Eph. 1:11

The predestinated and purposed element was **not who** should be saved, but **HOW** “whosoever will” may be saved (Rev. 22:17). One is saved by being “in Christ,” “in him,” “in the beloved,” and “through his blood.” These prepositional phrases are repeated in every verse because they are the crux of the discussion. God predestined the means of salvation.

“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ ...” Eph. 1:5

How do we become adopted into the family of God? — “by Jesus Christ.” The verse does not say, “predestinated us unto the adoption of children. Period.” It says “he...predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ...” Jesus Christ was God’s predestinated plan for the redemption of man. Those who are “in Christ” are *in* the “elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.” According to 1 Peter 2:5, 6 Jesus Christ is the “elect.” If you are “in Christ,” you are in the “elect.” You do not get “in Christ” by being predestinated; you get “in Christ” by believing on him. God predestinated the *method*, not the people.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:



In-Depth Bible Study

For a thorough study of a particular word, look for **it** (Search 1) *and* its **pegs** (Search 2) throughout the entire Bible.

Example 1

Define: **rock**

“And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter,
and upon this **rock** I will build my
church...” Matt. 16:18

Who is the ‘rock’? The eternal salvation of millions hinges on the answer to this question. Christians throughout history know that the ‘rock’ is Christ. The Roman Catholic system is built on a crumbling foundation, putting Peter in Christ’s place as the rock.

THE
CHURCH OF ROME,
TO FILL THEIR PURSE,
WILL COMB THE SCRIPTURES
VERSE BY VERSE,
YET NEVER FIND
A SINGLE SIGN
THAT PETER HEADS
THEIR PAPAL LINE.

The Bible’s built-in dictionary proves that God, not man, is the “chief corner stone” (Eph. 2:20).

Search 1 Key Words

Look throughout the entire Bible at all of the *other* occurrences of the word ‘rock.’

“that Rock was Christ”	1 Cor. 10:4
“The LORD is my rock ”	2 Sam. 22:2
“The LORD is my rock ”	Ps. 18:2
“For thou art my rock ”	Ps. 31:3
“God my rock ”	Ps. 42:9

Even *Peter* himself knew Jesus Christ is the rock. He wrote in the scriptures,




“To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus **Christ**. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious:...a stone of stumbling, and a **rock** of offence, even to them which stumble at the word...” 1 **Peter** 2:4-8

Search 2 Word Definitions

Here comes the amazing fun! Without the use of expensive, difficult and dubious Greek reference books, the distinction between Christ and Peter unfolds for the careful student of the word of God.



Look throughout the entire Bible at all of the *other* occurrences of the words which **accompany** ‘rock’ in Matt. 16:18 — words like ‘upon,’ ‘this,’ ‘build,’ ‘Peter’ and others.

“...and upon this rock I will build...” Matt. 16:18

The pegs are:  **upon**
 **this**
 **build**


1. Look for: **upon** **build**

The Bible *pre-conditions* the mind with the correct interpretation and associations. Immediately *before* Matthew 16, in Matthew 7, Jesus tells his disciples that the church is to be built upon the “rock,” — Christ, the Word. He compares a man who builds his life upon “these sayings of mine”—

“unto a wise man, which  **built** his house
 **upon a rock**” Matt. 7:24

(The “sayings” of Jesus are the “authority,” the true keys that open our understanding of the kingdom of God; Rome cannot give the keys to a Pied Piper and the traditions of his followers, i.e. Matt. 7:24, 29.)

2. Look for: **upon**

The Holy Bible-driven brain will pair “ **upon** this rock” with the following references to Jesus Christ.

“**upon me**” Matt. 26:10

“spit **upon him**” Matt. 27:30

“**he sat upon** the mount of Olives” Mark 13:3

Peter is never associated with the word “upon.”

3. Look for: this

The book of Matthew *pre-conditions* the brain to think ‘Christ’ when it sees the word “this.” The word ‘this’ is used 29 times in Matthew **before** the reader arrives at, “this rock” in Matt. 16:18. More of these usages of the word ‘this’ refer to Christ than to any other thing or person. Look at the immediate pre-conditioning:

Matt. 3:17	“... This is my beloved Son ...”
Matt. 8:27	“...What manner of man is this ...”
Matt. 9:3, 4	“ This man... Jesus ”
Matt. 12:23-25	“Is not this the son of David?... This fellow... Jesus ”
Matt. 13:54	“...Whence hath this man this wisdom...”
Matt. 13:55	“Is not this the carpenter’s son?...”
Matt. 13:56	“Whence then hath this man all these things?”

An easy English grammar lesson will help those who misread and conclude that Peter is the rock:

‘**This**’ in Matt. 16:18 is used “in contrast to *that*: properly denoting the **nearer** of **two** things” (*The Oxford English Dictionary*, vol.17, pp. 961-963, s.v. “this”).

There are **two** contrasting statements about Jesus in Matt. 16:13-18. The **nearer**, or latter of the two, is the statement, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” The word ‘this’ refers to this, the *second* and most recent statement. (Grandpa might say, “...*this* here statement, not *that* there statement?”)

Question 1:

“Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said,”

Answer 1: Matt. 16:14-16

“...Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said,”

Answer 2: Matt. 16:16-18

“...Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

“And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed **it** unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon **this** rock I will build my church...”

The latter of the two answers to Christ’s question, also the one nearer to the pronoun ‘this,’ is “Thou art the Christ...” Therefore, clearly, the antecedent of the pronoun ‘this’ is in answer 2. The pronoun ‘it’ reconfirms this for ‘it’ can only refer to the last and closest of the two statements.

The words ‘thou’ ‘art’ are the pegs which structure the parallelism. The antecedent to which the pronouns ‘it’ and ‘this’ refers is “the Christ.”

Verse	Pegs	Definition
Matt. 16:16	Thou art	the Christ
Matt. 16:17	art thou, Simon	it
Matt. 16:18	thou art Peter	this rock

The verse right before Matt. 16:18 is a perfect parallelism with identical pegs.

Verse	Pegs	Definition
Matt. 16:17	art thou, Simon...unto thee	it
Matt. 16:18	unto thee...thou art Peter	this rock

To reinforce a key to understanding the verse, observe the pegs “thou” and “art.” Jesus uses them to parallel the two names of Peter.

Verse	Pegs	Definition
16:17	art thou,	Simon Barjona
16:18	thou art	Peter

Sometimes parallel pegs are used to tie together a *contrast*.

Verse	Pegs	Contrast
16:14	thou art	John etc.
16:16	Thou art	the Christ

4. Look for: 📌 this rock

The expression “this rock” is used three times in the Old Testament (perhaps as a picture of the Godhead).

- In Numbers 20:10 the rock which brings forth “water” is a picture of the Holy Ghost. It is also a type of Christ; it cannot be smitten twice. He was smitten ‘once for all.’

- In Judges 6:20 “this rock” is a type of the burning bush.
- In Judges 6:26 “this rock” is a type of Christ’s “sacrifice” on the cross of “wood.”

The expression “this rock” is used once in the New Testament, perhaps as a picture of “God manifest in the flesh” (1 Tim 3:16).

Compare Words Having the Same Letters and Sounds

God has built into the Bible preconditioned associations with sounds. We know **God** is **good** and the **devil** is **evil**. Jesus is associated positively with the ‘je’ words ‘jewel’ and ‘Jehovah.’ The ‘lu’ in Lucifer associates him with ‘lucre,’ ‘lust’ and many other negative ‘lu’ words.

The brain will automatically define ‘this rock’ as ‘Christ’ because of the preconditioned associations of the individual letters and sounds in the word ‘Christ.’ Only the letter ‘o’ is not mirrored.

- Christ** = this rock
- Chr**i**st** = this rock
- Ch**r**ist** = this rock
- Ch**r**ist** = this rock
- Christ** = **this rock**
- Christ** = **this rock**

(Before dismissing this, spend some time reading the statistically significant research done by linguists working at accredited universities and published in juried journals like *Journal of Memory and Language*, *Journal of Verbal Behavior and Verbal Learning*, *Language and Cognitive Processes*, *Cognitive Psychology*, *Linguistic Inquiry*, *Computational Linguistics*, *Applied Psycholinguistics*, and *Neuropsychologia*, just to name a few. Articles like, Miller G.A. 1986. ‘Dictionaries in the Mind.’ *Language and Cognitive Processes* 1:171-185 could be a starting point. Search the internet under the words computational linguistics, psycholinguistics, sound symbolism, phonaesthesia etc. Scientists have just caught a glimpse of the God-created wonders of language and the mind which operates with them. Upcoming chapters will expand on this subject. See chapter 2 and the final Appendix “KJV’s ABCs,” beginning on p. 1114.)

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:



COMBINING **Search 1, 2, and 3**

“**comparing** spiritual things with spiritual”
1 Cor. 2:13

Study: Psalm 17:13, 14

“Arise O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword:

From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes.”

The KJV is the only English formal equivalency translation of the pure Greek and Hebrew Bible. That means, when you read the Psalms in the KJV, you are reading the Hebrew Bible, in English.

The Bible is built on a system of parallels. These parallels enable us to obey God’s command, “**comparing** spiritual things with spiritual.” The parallels in Hebrew are also parallel in English.

To understand Psalm 17:13, 14 it is necessary to compare its elements (words, letters, parts of speech) with matching ones in the remainder of chapter 17 and in the rest of the Bible. Note the following comparable things in Psalm 17:13, 14.

Search 1 Key Words Compared

Look in *other* places in the Bible for the words from Psalm 17:13-14. A book could be written doing this alone, but here are a few thoughts.

Define: portion

The **first** usage of ‘portion’ is in Gen. 14:24 (“eaten, and... let them take their portion”). It defines ‘portion’ as **food** (eaten). The **next** usage of ‘portion’ relates to an “**inheritance**” (Gen. 31:14). These meanings of ‘portion’ match identically the verse in Psalms 17 under consideration. The “men of the world” get food as their portion to fill their “belly.” They also receive the portion of being able to “leave the rest of their substance to their babes” (Ps. 17:14), as an “inheritance.”

VS

The portion the “men of the world” receive can be **contrasted** to the ‘portion’ believers receive. Another usage of the word ‘portion’ is in Ps. 142:5. David said “Thou art my refuge and my **portion** in the land of the living.” The LORD is our portion and what a Big portion that is!! “[B]ut how little a **portion** is heard of him?” Job 26:14.

Define: hid treasure

The first usage of “**treasures**” (Deut. 32:34) pairs it with “**sealed up**,” a definition of “**hid**.”

In Psalm 17:14, “hid treasure” is like “treasures hid” seen in the second usage of “treasures” in Deut. 33:19. It refers to the bounty of food and riches hid in the seas and the sand

(earth). Although the wicked take the prey, eat it and benefit from it, God reminds them that the beasts and treasures of the earth are **God's** and are permitted to fall into their hands through the mercy of God (“**thou** fillest with **thy** hid treasure”).

The “**treasure hid**” in Matt. 13:44 is the real reason why God fills the men of this world with his bounty. He wants to draw them to himself and true treasure and spiritual blessing.

Search **2** **Word Definitions**

With Parallel Pegs   

The red underlined words and letters are the pegs which help us find the parallel thoughts. The **black bold** words are the actual comparable and interchangeable words.

1. O **LORD** Psalm 17 continued (v. 13)
O **thou** (v. 7)
O **God** (v. 6)

Comparison: The LORD of v. 13 is “God” and “thou.”

2. **disappoint** him (v. 13)
cast him (v. 13)

Comparison: A ‘point’ (part of the meaning of ‘appoint’) is a position. The opposite of ‘appoint’ is ‘disappoint,’ which means ‘not appoint’ or ‘not stay on the point’ or position. The word ‘cast’ (move away, throw away, disposition) is a perfect parallel to ‘disappoint.’ The wicked are thrown from their place, be it mental (disappointment) or physical.

3. from the wicked, which is thy sword (v. 13)
from men which are thy hand (v. 14)

Conclusion: Wicked men are used as God’s sword and hand, which holds the sword.

4. from the paths of **the destroyer** (v. 4)
from **those that rise up against them** (v. 7)
From the wicked (v. 9)
from **my deadly enemies** (v. 9)

Conclusion: Wicked men, with their destructive tendencies, will try to destroy things. Without God’s protection they could destroy us. The destructive tendencies of the wicked serve as the correcting hand of God to those (whether saved or unsaved) who stray on to the “paths of the destroyer.”

5. their portion in this life (v. 14)
their substance (v. 14)
- their babes (v. 14)
- their own fat: with
their mouth (v. 10)
- who compass me about (v. 9)
whose belly thou fillest (v. 14)
their own fat (v. 10)

Conclusion: The wicked’s only portion is the substance they have in this life, that is, things like children and food — *unless they receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour.*

Search 3: Parallel Concepts

Comparing Parts of Speech

Define: thy hid treasure (Psalm 17 continued)

If there are no matching words for “thy hid treasure is,” then look for matching parts of speech. *Secret* (v. 12) and *hid* (v. 14) are both adjectives; the adjectives *secret* and *hid* are synonyms; they mean the same thing. This is a clue that the verses have something comparable in them.

prey...secret places (v. 12)


belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure; they are full (v. 14)

The “belly” God “fillest” (v. 14) is compared to the “prey” (v. 12) that fills the belly of the lion. The lion (v. 12) hides and lurks in **secret** so the prey won’t see him. The wicked’s bellies are filled with the things of this life only. “[T]hy **hid** treasure” refers to treasure (food) that was procured from the place where the wicked hid waiting to catch and devour his prey. Sinners are filled with what they take.

Comparing Parallels & Opposites Using Word Order

Comparisons are sometimes done through *contrasts*.

1. “**Thou fillest**” is contrasted with “thou hast.”

thou fillest with thy hid treasure (v. 14)

VS

Thou hast proved mine heart

thou hast visited me

thou hast tried me (v. 3)

Comparison: The wicked are filled with temporal treasures; Christians are offered spiritual riches. God is always trying to bring fallen man to a higher level: the unsaved to salvation and the saved to be conformed to the image of his Son. God allows the rain to fall on the unjust to show them his goodness that they might repent. He shows his goodness and gives them the treasures of a filled belly and the miracle of children. “[T]he goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?” Rom. 2:4

2. **from men of the world which have their portion in this life** (v. 14)
vs
them which put their trust in thee (v. 7)

3. **their portion in this life** (v. 14)
vs
thy face in righteousness (v. 15)
thy likeness (v. 15)

Conclusion: The men of the world get their portion in this life. It is God’s goodness intended to lead them to salvation. The saved, like David, who have experienced the presence of God, will not be satisfied with or from these things, but with the majestic closeness of his “face,” his “likeness,” and his “righteousness.”



Do not let the “unsearchable” vastness and depth of God’s word keep you from quenching your thirst at its shores and opening its doors. We are told to “search.”

SUMMARY

True Bible study involves *prayerfully* reading a passage and its context, over and over, then comparing it to other verses and chapters which discuss the same topic. In-depth study then includes three major searches.

Search 1: **Key Words**

Expanding understanding of individual words by comparing their use in various places in the Bible.

Search 2: **Word Definitions**

Identifying words and verses which are parallel in meaning by finding their identical surrounding words.

Search 3: **Parallel Concepts**

Identify words and verses which are parallel (or direct opposites) in meaning by finding matching parts of speech and word order.

The Holy Ghost will illuminate the Christian reader as he sees fit. Only “the Spirit searchest all things, yea, the deep things of God...the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God” (1 Cor. 2:10, 11).

Only the Holy Ghost can “shew it unto you.”

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth,
is come, he will guide you
into all truth...”

John 16:13-14

The Bible’s own dictionary and its **use by the translators**, is discussed in the chapters entitled, “How the Mind Works,” “The Little Book,” “The Ends of the World,” “Wycliffe’s Views,” “Warning from Translators and Martyrs,” “Understanding the Bible: Methods of Translators and Martyrs,” and “The Received Text...”